IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims:

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical switch for switching combinations of optical paths between a plurality of optical fibers, the optical switch comprising:

a device body with at least three optical fibers ~~being led~~ extending out therefrom; and

a switching optical block housed in the device body so as to be optically coupled to the respective optical fibers,

the optical block comprising:

an integrally formed lens block having one surface side to place the optical fibers on, and comprising ~~a plurality of~~ three integrally formed collimating lenses ~~placed~~ positioned side by side in the device body, each collimating lens having a same focal length and configured to position the optical axis of the optical fibers in a same plane, two of the collimating lens having parallel optical axes and the optical axis of the third collimating lens being skewed with respect to the optical axes of the two collimating lenses;

a prism which is ~~placed distantly~~ spaced from the lens block on the other surface side of the lens block such that the direction of travel of light incident from ~~the~~ one of the optical fibers through the collimating lens is changed, by the prism, to be directed toward a further optical fiber;

a switching mirror ~~placed to be~~ insertable into and removable ~~into and~~ from between the lens block and the prism; and

an actuator for driving the mirror,

wherein the respective optical fibers ~~are led out~~ extend from the one surface side of the device body, and

~~the lens block has the plurality of integrally formed collimating lenses~~ optically coupled surfaces of the respective optical fibers are positioned on the respective focal points of the collimating lenses.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The optical switch according to claim 1, wherein the lens block has fixed thereto ferrules holding the respective optical fibers, respectively.

4. (Original) The optical switch according to claim 3, wherein the bonding surfaces between the lens block and the ferrules are formed by planes inclined at an angle to at least some extent relative to planes perpendicular to axes of passing light beam.

5. (Original) The optical switch according to claim 4, wherein the optical block comprises one optical bench contained in and mounted on the device body for positioning and fixing the lens block, the prism and the actuator.

6. (Original) The optical switch according to claim 3, wherein the optical block comprises one optical bench contained in and mounted on the device body for positioning and fixing the lens block, the prism and the actuator.

7. (Previously Presented) The optical switch according to claim 1, wherein the bonding surfaces between the lens block and the ferrules are formed by planes inclined at an angle to at least some extent relative to planes perpendicular to axes of passing light beams.

8. (Original) The optical switch according to claim 7, wherein the optical block comprises one optical bench contained in and mounted on the device body for positioning and fixing the lens block, the prism and the actuator.

9. (Previously presented) The optical switch according to claim 1, wherein the optical block comprises one optical bench contained in and mounted on the device body for positioning and fixing the lens block, the prism and the actuator.

10. (Previously Presented) The optical switch according to claim 8, wherein the lens block has fixed thereto ferrules holding the respective optical fibers, respectively.

11. (Original) The optical switch according to claim 10, wherein the bonding surfaces between the lens block and the ferrules are formed by planes inclined at an angle to at least some extent relative to planes perpendicular to axes of passing light beam.

12. (Original) The optical switch according to claim 11, wherein the optical block comprises one optical bench contained in and mounted on the device body for positioning and fixing the lens block, the prism and the actuator.

13. (Original) The optical switch according to claim 10, wherein the optical block comprises one optical bench contained in and mounted on the device body for positioning and fixing the lens block, the prism and the actuator.

14. (Original) The optical switch according to claim 1, wherein the bonding surfaces between the lens block and the ferrules are formed by planes inclined at an angle to at least some extent relative to planes perpendicular to axes of passing light beam.

15. (Original) The optical switch according to claim 14, wherein the optical block comprises one optical bench contained in and mounted on the device body for positioning and fixing the lens block, the prism and the actuator.

16. (Original) The optical switch according to claim 1, wherein the optical block comprises one optical bench contained in and mounted on the device body for positioning and fixing the lens block, the prism and the actuator.